GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5782
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2005
ORBIS HOSPITAL
Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that eye operation took place on an aircraft under the sponsorship of Flying Eye hospital named ORBIS recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the aims and objective of the ORBIS ;

(d) the agency that sponsors the ORBIS;

(e) whether the ORBIS hospital has already traveled to 80 countries so far;

(f) whether any doctor from India is also associated with the ORBIS; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir.

In the month of February 2005, over 80 surgeries were conducted within the aircraft of ORBIS Flying Eye Hospital, at the host hospital premises and as part of the off-plane outreach programs at Sri Sankardeva Nethralaya, Guwahati and J. P. M. Rotary Eye Hospital, Cuttack.

In the month of March, 2005, over 95 surgeries were conducted within the aircraft of ORBIS Flying Eye Hospital, at the host hospital premises and as part of the off-plane outreach programs at Drashti Nethralaya, Dahod and Sadguru Nethra Chikitsalaya, Chitrakoot.

(c) ORBIS is working towards its mission of preventing avoidable blindness by making available world-class skills and technology to nations where the need is perceived, through interventions that focus on building capacity of eye care institutes by way of on ground programs, telemedicine, technical volunteer support and networking.

(d) The ORBIS Flying Eye Hospital programs are supported by several corporations, foundations & trusts and individuals from across the world. Primary among the corporate sponsors are organizations which have come together with ORBIS to form an `Alliance for Sight`, these being-FedEx Express, Alcon Laboratories, Ronald McDonald House Charities, Honeywell, United Airlines and Standard Chartered Bank.

(e) Yes, Sir. Since 1982, the ORBIS Flying Eye Hospital has flown to over 80 countries.

(f) & (g) Yes, Sir, ORBIS gets Voluntry service from Dr P. Vijayalakshmi from Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai; Dr Anil Mandal and Dr Virender Sangwan from L V Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad and Dr Pradeep Sharma of R. P. Center of Ophthalmic Sciences, AIIMS, Delhi and Dr Kuldeep Srivastava from Sadguru Nethra Chikitsalaya, Chitrakoot.